

136:42
ms

October 25, 2012
www.mbc.org

Vol. 136
No. 42

THE Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

Vote for biblical values

Graham: Moral issues at stake in critical election

MONTREAT, N.C. (BP) — Evangelist Billy Graham is calling on Americans to "vote for biblical values" as they cast ballots in the upcoming election, as part of a recently-launched national advertising campaign.

A full-page ad in the Oct. 18 issue of the Wall Street Journal and in USA Today on Oct. 19 featured the Graham's picture beside a block of text stating: "The legacy we leave behind for our children, grandchildren and this great nation is crucial. As I approach my 94th birthday, I realize this election could be my last. I believe it is vitally important that we cast our ballots for candidates who base their decisions on biblical principles and support the nation of Israel."

"I urge you to vote for those who protect the sanctity of life and support the biblical definition of marriage between a man and a woman. Vote for biblical values this November 6, and pray with me that America will remain one nation under God."

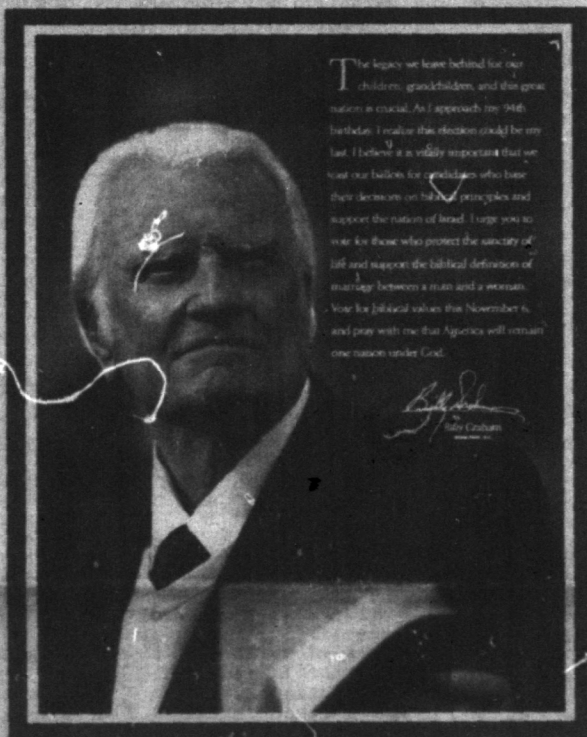
Graham's name and signature follow the statement.

The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) said friends who support the ministry have contributed funds designated for the purchase of advertising space using Graham's image to call for the support of candidates who support biblical values.

In addition to The Wall Street Journal and USA Today, the ads will appear in newspapers in as many as a dozen states over the next few weeks, according to a BGEA statement released on Oct. 18. "The number of states, papers and times the ads run will depend on the amount of funding provided and designated for this project of the BGEA. The ads intentionally do not mention any candidate, political party, or contest, urging instead for readers to cast votes for candidates — at all levels — based on their support for biblical values."

The statement added that Graham "recently expressed a desire to publicly call America back to God and to prayer, and to draw attention to moral issues that are clearly addressed in the Bible and have increasingly become part of a national political dialog."

Also on Thursday, news reports spotlighted the recent removal of a



The legacy we leave behind for our children, grandchildren, and this great nation is crucial. As I approach my 94th birthday, I realize this election could be my last. I believe it is vitally important that we cast our ballots for candidates who base their decisions on biblical principles and support the nation of Israel. I urge you to vote for those who protect the sanctity of life and support the biblical definition of marriage between a man and a woman. Vote for biblical values this November 6, and pray with me that America will remain one nation under God.

reference to Mormonism as a cult from the BGEA website. In a section of the website called Billy Graham's My Answer, there had been the question, "What is a cult?" The answer was, "A cult is any group which teaches doctrines or beliefs that deviate from the biblical message of the Christian faith. Some of these groups are Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, the Unification Church, Unitarians, Spiritualists, Scientologists, and others."

The removal came after the New Civil Rights Movement, a homosexual advocacy group, reported that the cult reference remained online even after Graham met with Romney last week in his Montreat, N.C., home and "all but endorsed" the Republican for president, according to Religion News Service.

Ken Barun, BGEA chief of staff, confirmed to CNN Oct. 16 that the page had been removed from the website. "Our primary focus at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has always been promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We removed the information from the website because we do not wish to participate in a theological debate about something that has become politicized during this campaign."

The removal left people won-

dering whether Graham was softening his stance on Mormonism in order to support Romney, a Mormon, for president.

Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Church in Dallas, was in the news last fall for calling Mormonism a cult while backstage after introducing then-Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry at a Values Voters Summit.

In comments to Baptist Press on Oct. 18, Jeffress reiterated his beliefs while also voicing support for Romney. "I believe that Mormonism is a theological cult. It is a false religion that leads people away from the true God rather than toward the true God. Although I am supporting Mitt Romney for president, I have still not changed my beliefs about Mormonism being a false religion."

Jeffress explained to Baptist Press how a person can both believe Mormonism is a cult and support a Mormon for president. "I think that there is a reason in this election for choosing a non-Christian who embraces biblical positions such as the sanctity of life and of marriage over a professing Christian like Barack Obama who openly supports abortion and gay marriage."

Hollywooders defend abortion; Obama ads slam Romney on issue

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — A leading abortion rights organization has enlisted Academy Award-winning actress Meryl Streep and other movie/television stars in a campaign against pro-life legislative efforts.

The Draw the Line campaign of the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) kicked off with online videos Oct. 9 featuring Streep, Kevin Bacon, Kyra Sedgwick, Lisa Kudrow, Tea Leoni, Audra McDonald, Olympia Dukakis, Amy Poehler, and others.

"Every day, the opponents of our fundamental reproductive rights are passing laws designed to take those rights away," Streep says in her video. "They're shutting down doctors and clinics across the nation. They're making it nearly impossible for millions of women to get the essential health care they need."

The effort urges endorsements of CRR's Bill of Reproductive Rights, which calls for protection for the right to abortion and other services.

C. Ben Mitchell, professor of moral philosophy at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., and editor of Ethics & Medicine: An International Journal of Bioethics, asked by Baptist Press for comment, noted, "Even wonderfully talented people need to be educated about the sanctity of every human life. Women's rights matter. And so do the rights of unborn children, especially the right not to be killed in the womb. Pro-life Christians are at least as concerned as these actors and actresses about every woman's right to get accurate information about abortion."

Mississippi's sole abortion clinic, located in Jackson, is struggling to stay open while fighting a state law that mandates doctors performing abortions in the clinic must have admitting privileges at a local hospital.

Meanwhile, U.S. Presi-

dent Barack Obama's reelection campaign has launched its fourth television advertisement criticizing the pro-life views of Republican challenger Mitt Romney, adding to what already was an unprecedented focus on the issue.

No Democrat has ever spotlighted the issue as much in a campaign as has Obama, who has a long pro-abortion track record. While serving as a state senator in Illinois, he was instrumental in passing bills that expanded legal abortion in that state and supported a bill that allowed

children accidentally born alive during botched abortions to be killed.

While campaigning for president in March 2008, Obama was quoted as saying, "If my daughters make a mistake, I don't want them punished with a baby."

ABC News reported the new ad will air only in Virginia, where Obama and Romney are battling for female votes.



STREEP

Ins...	
Direct	4
Sund	7
Lesson	2
Editor	4
Bibli	4
How t	5
a Chr	4
Reviv	6, 8
Home	5
Just fo	5
Classifieds	5



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

A disgraced profession

I don't recall a time in my life when I thought of any career other than journalism. During my growing up years in the Mississippi Delta, my home had four daily newspapers and three weekly newspapers delivered. In addition, there was a boundless list of magazines that included everything from *Better Homes and Gardens* to *Popular Science* to *American Rifleman* (although I suspect the Publisher's Clearing House jackpots had something to do with that process).

I felt called to the job. I tried to soak in as much of all that information as I could. I loved reading the county-seat weekly newspapers, with their local club reports and letters to Santa Claus. I loved the daily newspapers for the national and international news and the sports sections. I loved the magazines, which featured articles on everything from how to winterize lawns to the best way to disassemble a .45 pistol.

There was one thing I noticed, over and over again, as I pored over all those pages. The publications and the writers had integrity. I believed I could trust them for the truth. Whether the article was about the Vietnam War or sending a man to the moon, I believed in the author and I believed in the name of the publication.

When I left for college to study journalism, it was a dream come true. I learned the mechanics of newspaper work and started my career. There have been occasions to meet some great journalists during my 36 years in the business, and most of them exuded the integrity and professionalism I had expected of them. I wanted to be like them. The Lord has blessed me across the years with many opportunities in this line of work to serve Him and serve the people for whom I reported the news.

Perhaps I grew up in a golden age of journalism. Perhaps I was youthfully naive. Perhaps I'm just terminally idealistic. I know this: I have lost respect

for much of what passes for journalism today.

Numerous polls of the American people in recent years have placed journalists at or near the bottom of the list of trusted professions, just above some pretty disreputable ways to earn a living. No wonder. Many journalists today have brought dishonor to their profession. Many journalists — and many publications — don't tell us the whole truth. Context is almost non-existent and there's too much favoritism in what's supposed to be balanced reporting, especially when it comes to religion, social issues, and politics.

That's why my heart broke when I read some time back about *JournoList*, an exclusive internet blog of sorts where journalists and others of liberal political persuasion plotted to make their "enemies" look bad and otherwise slant the news to their point of view. The conduct of many journalists during this current election cycle has only served to reinforce my impressions of unfairness and collusion in the news media.

It's not a revelation that some reporters have agendas, or that some reporting is unfair. No profession is perfect, and every profession has scoundrels who bring shame to an honest line of work. The revelation — at least to some of us but not to others who suspected it all along — is that there are established networks of journalists today who collaborate on ways to advance their causes and destroy those who would oppose them.

What a disgrace. We should keep this in mind when the news media report on Christians. There's no doubt some reporters actually plot to cast us in the worst possible light, and many more of them just don't like us. Unfortunately, all of that is reflected in their (mis)reporting about Christians and Christianity.

It seems we're just going to have to get used to it.

Watch for 'Christmas star 2013'

A comet is one of several possibilities proposed for the star that the wise men followed from the east to find the Christ child in Bethlehem on the first Christmas day. It would explain how they could see His star in the east and yet follow it west.

A recent example of this is the Hale-Bopp comet in 1997, the most widely observed comet of the 20th century. It was first visible in the eastern sky before sunrise and moved closer to the horizon each morning before it reappeared on the western horizon just after sunset.

If following a comet, the ancient wise men would have recognized the course of the Bethlehem star to be like that of the morning "star," Venus (actually a planet), which appears progressively lower on the eastern horizon before reappearing as the evening "star" in the west.

If a comet marked the birth of a king in Israel, they would have awaited its reappearance in the evening sky before they began their journey. The down side of a comet for the Christmas star is that generally they are visible to the naked eye for only a few months, meaning that the wise men would have lived within a few months' journey of Bethlehem.

The longest visible record for naked-eye observation of a comet is 18 months for 1997's Hale-Bopp Comet, which is twice as long as the previous record holder, the Great Comet of 1811.

Matthew 3:16 records: "Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its environs, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the magi" (New American Standard Bible).

A new comet discovered by Russian astronomers on September 21 is predicted to be the brightest visitor to our solar system in the past century. At present, the comet is beyond the orbit of Jupiter but on November 28, 2013,



Guest opinion

with David T. Dockery III

it will reach its perihelion (closest approach to the sun) at just 1.1 million miles from the solar surface (earth is 93 million miles from the sun). The intense solar radiation is expected to set the comet ablaze with gas jets from its icy surface and interior.

The comet is called C/2012 S1 and will make its closest approach to Earth on December 26, 2013.

Brian Williams, anchor of the NBC Evening News, announced on the October 4 broadcast that comet C/2012 S1 could be 15 times brighter than the moon and visible in broad daylight. The comet has been compared to the Great Comet of 1680, which caused those living on Manhattan Island to be "overcome with terror at a sight in the heavens such as has seldom greeted human eyes."

In early December of 1680, when the great comet had a very long and bright tail, Manhattan residents held a day of fasting and humiliation. The trajectory of C/2012 S1 and the Great Comet of 1680 are eerily similar, indicating that these comets may be fragments of the same parent body.

Thus, a sibling of the Great Comet of 1680 may become the Christmas star of 2013.

Dockery holds a Ph.D. in paleontology from Tulane University in New Orleans. A member of Pocahontas Church, Pocahontas, he is chief of the Surface Geology Division of the Office of Geology in the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. He may be contacted at David.Dockery@deq.state.ms.us.

THE Baptist Record

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Dwayne Parker, Flora Paul Sims, Pontotoc
Barry Burris, Terry Carl White, Meridian
Billie Buckley, Petal
Russell Mord, Sturgis

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

BAPTISTS

VOLUME 136 • NUMBER 42 • ISSN 0025-5778
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

WORLD NEWS

Report: Christian students targeted in Nigeria attacks

SANTA ANA, Calif. (BP) — New details from Open Doors News reconfirm earlier reports that Christians were the focus of an Oct. 1 massacre of 29 students in Mubi, Nigeria.

Jerry Dykstra, media relations director for Open Doors, said post-massacre follow-up by Open Doors workers at the site reconfirms an Oct. 3 report that Christians were the focus of the attack.

"Many mainstream media have reported the massacre was likely the result of a political/election issue among students at Federal Polytechnic State University, but Open Doors coworkers have reconfirmed that those targeted were mostly Christians. The coworkers have talked directly to Christian leaders in Mubi and to several survivors. Christians around the area of Mubi have been targeted by the Islamic terrorist group Boko Haram for a long time."

Open Doors reported that just before midnight, the attackers called students out of their rooms and asked them for their names. Those with Christian names were shot dead or killed with knives. The bodies were left in lines outside the buildings. Students with traditionally Muslim names were told to quote Islamic scripture.

"If you succeeded, you were let go," a survivor told an Open Doors worker who traveled to Mubi, located in northern Nigeria, after the attack.

"I was asked to say my name, to which I replied that I am a Christian and that my name is Elkanah," student Elkanah Sardauna said. "They threw me to the ground and shouted 'Allahu Akbar' [Allah is greater]. I cried out to Jesus, face to the ground. They demanded that I stop calling on Jesus but I persisted. The next moment I was shot in the hand and then slashed with a knife at the back of my neck. They must have thought I was dead because they left."

When the church in Mubi celebrated its 52nd anniversary on Oct. 1, little did the church know that the day would end in a bloodbath.

According to Mubi church leaders, a total of 29 people, mostly students, were killed and at least five injured in the attack. Fully armed attackers suspected to be members of Boko Haram invaded the area, firing several shots into the air. They made their way to the off-campus hostels of the Federal Polytechnic State University, College of Health Technology, and several private residences of Christians.

Manasseh, a student who survived a gunshot and severe knife injuries, shared his ordeal. "They asked me to recant my Christian

faith to spare my life. I refused. After my Muslim roommate quoted some Islamic scripture, he was told to leave the room. They said they were only after these 'infidels' who would all die that day. Then they shot me and slashed my back. This is really a picture of the great hatred for us Christians in the region."

The Associated Press has reported that approximately 800 Nigerians have died from Boko Haram violence this year. Many on that list are Christians but it also includes moderate Muslims, government military troops, and police.

Nigeria is ranked No. 13 on the Open Doors 2012 World Watch List of the worst persecutors of Christians.

For the past three months the Mubi church has been seeking God's face through praying and fasting, as Christians in Mubi have been under siege for a long time. Prior to the Oct. 1 attack, Muslim extremists circulated letters to some Christians in the area, giving believers an ultimatum to either recant their faith within two weeks or suffer fatal consequences.

According to one believer, who showed Open Doors workers a letter, they were warned not to disclose the threat to anyone as any leakage of the information will result in death.

The Christian Association of Nigeria in Mubi gave the letters to security operatives in Yola. A search team was deployed to conduct house to house searches in Mubi. Many sophisticated weapons were seized from Muslim extremists, Open Doors reported. Police also discovered water tanks stacked with ammunition and several dry wells that were turned into storerooms for weapons.

However, these actions did not prevent the attack on the Christians in Mubi.

Maxwell Jijya, a minister representing CAN in Mubi, said, "We are only living by the grace of God. The weapons recovered by the search team in Mubi are enough to eliminate every single Christian in Mubi and the entire Adamawa state. Boko Haram is out to eliminate us."

"The city has become very dangerous. The government is no longer interested in protecting us. The attackers spent two hours killing and destroying, and to date not a single government official has come to sympathize with us."

Editor's note: Adapted from reports by Open Doors News, (www.compassdirect.org), a news service based in Santa Ana, Calif., focusing on persecuted Christians worldwide.



SCOUTS UNDER SCRUTINY — Decades of files on ineligible volunteers who worked or sought to work in the Boy Scouts of America program were released Oct. 18 under an Oregon judge's order. Instances of child abuse by some adult volunteers are contained in the files. (BP photo)

Court-ordered file release reveals abuse in the Boy Scouts program

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP) — More than 15,000 pages of files related to ineligible volunteers were released under court order by the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) on Oct. 18 reflect "the grim reality of child abuse in our country, not only in youth organizations but also in our churches," a Scouting official said.

A judge in Portland, Or., ordered the release of the documents, which span 1965-85, after media outlets including The Oregonian newspaper sued to gain access.

The filing system, which includes memos, lists, and newspaper clippings, was established more than 80 years ago to keep Boy Scouts safe by flagging volunteers who are known or suspected of being child abusers.

"While clearly an imperfect system, this action was taken at a time well before officials had ready access to computers and electronic databases," R. Chip Turner, national chairman of Boy Scouts of America Religious Relationships, told Baptist Press.

The Boy Scouts have since become a leader in youth protection programs, said Turner, a past national president of the Association of Baptists for Scouting. "It should be noted that many of our Baptist churches today use prevention procedures based on concepts found in the BSA model of no one-on-one interactions with youth; criminal background checks; and extensive training prior to placement in a leadership role."

According to the New York Times, child welfare experts say the Boy Scouts had a corrosive culture of secrecy that compounded the damage of sex abuse for decades.

Some entries "suggest a guarded, institutional caution

"Where those involved in Scouting failed to protect, or worse, inflicted harm on children, we extend our deepest and sincere apologies to victims and their families."

Wayne Perry
national president of
Boy Scouts of America

from scout leaders who seem to be protecting the organization or were suffused with the belief — others might call it naïveté — that a man who had admitted wrongdoing with young boys should be given a second chance," the Times reported.

A memo from a scout executive in 1972, quoted in The Times, said of an offender, "He recognizes that he has a problem, and he is personally taking steps to resolve this situation... I would like to let this case drop."

The Times said the files, which involve more than 1,200 men, do not suggest that Scouting was ever or is now riddled with sexual stalkers. The files undoubtedly contain the names of innocent men who were wrongly accused, the newspaper said.

Also revealed in the files, according to The Times analysis, is the idea that parents of scouts often were left uninformed of the potential danger surrounding their children.

The Oregonian, in its analysis, said the files could help thousands of former Scouts who were molested as children but did not report the abuse and have been haunted by questions about their attackers.

"Often, executives covered up abuse allegations, figuring they had addressed the problems by pressuring the suspected pedophiles to quit," The Oregonian said. Sometimes, Scouting officials did not inform police and though volunteers were no longer allowed to participate in Scouting, they went on to abuse children elsewhere, the newspaper said.

The Boy Scouts tried to prevent the release of the ineligible volunteer files, dubbed "perversion files," because they believed a breach of confidentiality could inhibit victims from reporting other instances of abuse, The Times said.

Wayne Perry, national president of Boy Scouts of America, apologized for the abuse that is documented in the files. "There have been instances where people misused their positions in Scouting to abuse children, and in certain cases our response to these incidents and our efforts to protect youth were plainly insufficient, inappropriate or wrong," Perry said in a statement.

"Where those involved in Scouting failed to protect, or worse, inflicted harm on children, we extend our deepest and sincere apologies to victims and their families."

The organization's president said they have continuously enhanced their multilayered policies and procedures to ensure that they are in line with or ahead of society's knowledge of abuse and best practices for prevention. Under current policies, any good-faith suspicion of abuse must be immediately reported to law enforcement by members and volunteers, and suspected abusers are removed from Scouting as soon as a report is received, the organization said.

We had moved far into fall, the weather was getting cooler, the days were getting shorter, and the nights were getting longer and longer. In fact, the nights were so long that it had gotten to where I would start and end my morning walk all in the dark. I personally do not like it when it is that dark for that long. It is not because I am afraid of the dark, but because most mornings I am not where I can see the glorious sunrise. So there I was walking through the neighborhood with virtually no stars shining, a moon that had already disappeared, and it was dark, dark. One of the few sources of light was where some of the homes had outdoor lighting that helped to break up the darkness of the morning. As I walked along a huge shadow streaked across my path and I immediately thought that it was some sort of monster that had gotten loose in the neighborhood. As I looked over toward the source of the shadow, I saw a medium sized little cat running in front of the outdoor lighting. The shadow was a good six or seven feet long and it was only a six to eight inch cat. The cat went on about its business and so did I.

As I walked along I reflected on a quote by Lin Yutang, "When small men begin to cast big shadows, it means that the sun is about to set." I have so often thought about that statement in relationship to our nation, our communities, our states, and sometimes our churches as I have seen small men cast big, looming shadows. It reminds me that you do not have to be very



Long Shadows

big or very influential, very bright or very gifted to make a lot of racket or stand near the light in such a way that you cast a long shadow. I have always marveled as I watched people just grab hold of lengthy influence at times and sway huge numbers of people.

Now the quote about little men and the sun setting is probably also referring to the fact that it is not true influence that is being exercised or legitimate power being expressed so much as it is the silence of those who may truly be the big and strong but are not involved. A quote related to that reality is the one I hear frequently. "In order for evil to succeed all that is needed is for good men to remain silent." It seems to me that in order for one of those statements to be true, the other one has to be a reality also.

You do have influence, legitimate influence, important and God given influence to make a difference in your country and in your world. I am not here to tell you what to do or who to vote for, but I am going to ask you to do something. There are thousands of leadership roles across the nation and many across Mississippi that will be decided on November 6. Your vote makes a difference and you need to be involved.

The first thing that I am going to ask you to do is pray. So many have said to me that is such a difficult decision since they are not particular crazy about anybody running. I do understand, but I also understand that somebody is going to lead this country, lead in our Congress, and lead in other

specific ways in positions of influence. I trust you seeking the Lord more than I trust them just being elected, so enter into that experience before God.

The second thing that I am going to ask you to do is vote. As you go to vote, think about all of the people in our world who do not have an opportunity to vote. They have no influence at all. Think about those of our own country who have given their life so that we will have the freedom to vote. What a sad thing that they would give so much and we would be unwilling to do so little. I am always shocked when I see the numbers of people who do not exercise this freedom. I am even more disturbed when I hear Christians saying that they just do not get involved and do not even vote. You have little right to complain about your culture, your leaders, or the decisions being made if you are not willing to at least be engaged at the ballot box.

Third, I would encourage you to follow up with supportive prayer for those who are elected that God Himself would work in their lives at times even transcending their own thought processes to bring wisdom and the impact of His will and grace for our country. These are critical times in America and as maybe never before you are desperately needed in order to make a difference in our world. God bless you and may God bless America.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Swiftwater Church, Greenville:** Homecoming and revival, Oct. 28-31; Sun., services, 11 a.m., followed by meal; Sun. - Wed., 7 p.m. and noon, Mon. - Wed.; Granville Watson, speaker.

► **First Church, Rose Hill, Jasper County:** Homecoming and revival, Oct. 28 - Nov. 2; Sun., 10 a.m., with concert by Crimson City at 11 and lunch; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.

► **Georgetown Church, Georgetown:** Homecoming, Oct. 28; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; services, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Trent Nethery, speaker; Alan Faler and Georgetown worship team, music.

► **Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa:** 125th anniversary celebration, Oct. 28; historical walk, 7:45 a.m.; Sunday School, 8:45 a.m.; historical service, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:50 a.m., followed by lunch on grounds.

► **Liberty Church, Newton:** Homecoming, Oct. 28, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; fall festival, Oct. 27, 5 p.m.; Hal Ethridge, pastor.

► **Rocky Point Church, Carthage:** Revival, Oct. 28 - 31; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; 7 p.m. nightly; Randall Creel, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, music; Shane McGivney, pastor.

► **First Church, Runnelstown, Petal:** Homecoming, Oct. 28; service, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Hal Hood, speaker; Robert Bolling, music.

► **First Church, Lexington:** Revival, Oct. 28 - 31; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 6:30 p.m.; Mickey Dalrymple, speaker; Keith Leech and Joel Hill, music; Billy Williams, interim pastor.

► **Gumpond Church, Lumberton:** Homecoming, Oct. 28; services, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship and dinner; Joe Beach, speaker.

► **Salem Church, Tylertown:** Homecoming, Oct. 28; fellowship and singing, 10:15 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Lonnie Bell, speaker; Rob Schepers, music; Mark Wicker, pastor.

► **New Hope Church, Sumrall:** 179th anniversary/homecoming Oct. 28; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon service; Mike Lee, speaker; Jeffery Coulter, music; Charles Broome, pastor.

► **First Church, Potts Camp:** Homecoming, Oct. 28, 9:45 a.m.; buffet meal; Charles Fowler, speaker; Shirley Berry, music; Paul Hicks, pastor.

► **Salem Church, Collins:** Revival, Oct. 28 - 31; Sun., 10:30 a.m.; 6:30 p.m. nightly; Eugene Haden, speaker; Wesley Lee, music; Dennis Campbell, pastor.

► **Toxish Church, Pontotoc:** 175th anniversary/homecoming; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by special music and fellowship meal; Scott Hudson, speaker.

Courtney to be honored

The Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention invites former board members and ministerial students to join in honoring Ruthie Courtney on the occasion of her retirement and the celebration of 25 years of service, during

the business session of the 177th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at 10:05 a.m. on October 31 in the Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson. For more information, contact Jimmy Stewart at (601) 228-831-3400.

BIBL i0CiPHER

VNNF PIJDGNTMNG XC ERN TIMN IA

ZIW, TIIVXCZ AID ERN HNDSP IA IJD

TIDW BNGJG SRDXGE JCEI NENDCLT

TXAN.

BJWN EKNCEP-ICN

Clue: I = O

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Colossians One: Twenty-one

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 25, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

BE THE ONE

Speakers: 11
Gary Permenter &
Bryant Bush

Music:
Bethany Barr-Phillips

Special Appearance:
Tino Wallenda

December 27-28, 2012
Mississippi College, Clinton

Registration begins Thursday
Dec. 27, 1:30 p.m.

Concludes Friday Dec. 28
12:30 p.m.

If you have any questions about YEC 2012, please contact us at 601-292-3278 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 278. E-mail jellis@mbcb.org.

Time to begin

BIBLE BUDDIES, CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL, STUDENT BIBLE DRILL

To get your Brochures, Bible Verse Cards, and other support material, contact:
Discipleship and Family Ministry, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Phone: 601-292-3284 or 1-800-748-1651
E-mail: dbroshier@mbcb.org or dhicks@mbcb.org
Bible Drill Web page: www.mbcb.org/bibledrills

State Drills will be:

April 11, 2013
April 12
April 13
April 15
April 16
April 18

Batesville or McComb (this is a new location.)
Brandon
Clinton
Meridian or New Albany
Spartanburg or Hattiesburg
Greenville or Tupelo

*Telephone your association for time and place of your associational drill.

We will be glad to schedule a consultation or workshop in your church or association.

MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS

unexpected

THE FUNDS RAISED BY MARGARET LACKEY OFFERING GO TO:

- Christian Women's/Men's Job Corps
- College Outreach
- Criminal Justice Ministry
- New Church Starts
- Central Hills Campground
- Community Mission Projects
- Camp Garaywa
- Port Ministries
- Cross Cultural Evangelism
- Disaster Relief
- Language/Deaf Ministry
- Mission Volunteers

\$2 MILLION GOAL

ABIDE

NOVEMBER 12-14, 2012
LAKE TIAK O'KHATA, LOUISVILLE



Featured Speaker
Stuart Hall

Student ministry is exhausting. It is easy to become exhausted physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually wiped out. The Mississippi Baptist Student Ministers' Retreat offers a time of spiritual nourishment, renewal, and the opportunity to sharpen our ministry skills.

NO COST

Registration required:

- 1-Register online at www.mbcbs.org, look for the "Student Ministers' Retreat" link near the bottom of the home page.
- 2-Make reservations directly with Lake Tia O'Khata if you are staying at the hotel. Lodging/Meal Packages can be found under the same link as above.

*Information available for the economical bunkhouse option.

Retreat Schedule found under the same link on www.mbcbs.org

Contact: Ken Hall, khall@mbcb.org

(800) 748-1651, ext. 286, or

Rene' Edwards, redwards@mbcb.org

(800) 748-1651, ext. 283

Worship Leader
Bohany Barr Phillips

Breakout
Conference Speaker
Mal Smiley

Mississippi Baptist Student Missions 2013

see. hear. go.



www.missionsnow.net

Garaywa Day Camp

JULY 1-3, 2013, 9:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

FOR BOYS & GIRLS 1ST - 6TH GRADE

COST: \$20 PER CHILD PER DAY

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- BIBLE STUDY
- CRAFTS
- SWIMMING
- RECREATION
- ROPES COURSE
- MISSIONARY VISIT

FOR MORE INFORMATION

601-24-7034 KREDDITT@GARAYWA.ORG

WWW.GARAYWA.ORG



MINISTERS' WIVES CONFERENCE

October 29, 2012

1:30 - Registration

1:50 - Conference

FBC, Jackson

Christian Life Center Dining Room

Guest Speaker:

Janie Walters

"Blow a Bubble Not a Gasket"

First Baptist Church, Jackson, Christian Life Center (CLC), Dining Room, 2nd floor.

Ministers' wives are encouraged to join us as author and speaker Janie Walters speaks on "101 ways to reduce stress and add fun to your life."

Preregistration is encouraged so we can be better prepared. Contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for registration information.

1-800-748-1651, ext 305, or 601-292-3305

cwtaylor@mbcb.org

ONE-DAY

Stewardship REVIVAL

The one activity with the most potential for creating a culture of generosity in your congregation is a Stewardship Workshop.

Encourage your church to develop a culture of generosity through faithful discipleship.

For more information contact the Stewardship Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 601.292.3347.

OVERNIGHT TRAIL RIDE

Central Hills Retreat
November 9-10, 2012

Cost: \$45 per person
(includes room or RV hookup,
3 meals, insurance)

BYOH (bring your own horse)
Up-to-date Coggins required

Time: Arrive after 3 on Friday, November 9.
Dinner and activities begin at 6.
Breakfast at 8 on Saturday morning.
Ride begins at 9:30 and lasts until noon.
Lunch at noon on Saturday.

Local riders are invited to ride on Saturday morning. Cost: \$15
(includes lunch)

For more information contact: Don Lum at 601-292-3280, David
Hamilton at 662-489-1200, or Jim Ray at 662-289-9730

Bivocational/Small Church Ministers and Wives Council Meeting & Banquet

Monday, October 29, 2012

Bivo/Small Church Area Coordinators Meeting
Baptist Building Sky Room
4th Floor, 1:30 p.m.

Bivo/Small Church Council Meeting
Baptist Building Sky Room
4th Floor, 3:00 p.m.

Bivo/Small Church Ministers and Wives Banquet
Fellowship Hall West, First Baptist Church, Jackson
5:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION. We will join
the Acts 1:8 Celebration Dinner.

*Please Register before October 16, so we will have a meal for
you.

Please contact the Pastor/Leadership Development
Dept. to make reservations: 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305,
601-292-3305 or cwtaylor@mbcb.org

AMD & Seminary Extension Directors Breakfast

Tuesday, October 30, 2012

7:00-8:00 a.m.

Baptist Building Chapel

In order that we might prepare, please notify Keith Gordon,
1-800-748-1651, ext. 307, 601-292-3307, or kgordon@
mbcb.org if you will attend. Wives are also invited.

SINGLE PARENTS RETREAT

FEBRUARY 8 - 9

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BILOXI

FRIDAY 6:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

SATURDAY 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

SATURDAY MORNING IS MEET & GREET AT CHICK-FIL-A

FEATURING:

JAMES CRUISE

AUTHOR & INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER

*"In the midst of extraordinary circumstances, James
walked the single parent life for over 15 years!"*

Per Person: \$12 or \$20 with T-Shirt
(MUST REGISTER ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 1)

CALL 228-396-8500

for reservation

Scholarships to be given away at Retreat

Child Care available for ages 2 years - 12 years old

Finger foods provided on Friday night

Mississippi Baptists say

Merry Christmas

to the pastors in the Alaska, Iowa, and Northwest Baptist Conventions,
through The Suit Project ministry.

What is the Suit Project? For over 48 years Mississippi Baptists have
enjoyed sending new suits to pastors in new work areas. Many of these
pastors have no suit nor have the extra money to purchase one. By
sending them a suit we are letting the pastors know that we care about
them and that we support their work.

How do I get involved? Simply make a donation to the ministry. Each
suit will cost \$140. This can be a special project for Men's Ministry groups,
Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action, or WMU groups. For churches or
individuals looking for a ministry that really touches someone's life, The
Suit Project is the perfect choice.

Where do I send my donation? Make your check payable to MBCB and
designate your check to The Suit Project and mail to Men's Ministry, P.O.
Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

If funds are available, we will send a gift certificate to the pastor's
wife! Often they go without things that they want or need to
support their husband's ministry. This is a wonderful way to show
them that they are not forgotten and that the support they provide
their husband is truly appreciated.

Pray this day for...

October 26 – November 8, 2012

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein..." -Psalm 24:1

Pray for: **Alvin* and Mary Doyle**, IMB missionaries to European Peoples in Hungary through member care.

PRAY FOR THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION and associated events

Pray for: **Aaron* and Tiffany Epps**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert* and Margaret Fortenberry**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Botswana through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **David* and Gloria* Glaze**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples in the U.S. through media consultation and promotion.

Pray for: **John* and Sonia* Grady**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the U.S. through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Guy* and Cindy* DeMars**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Senegal through hospitality coordination and church/home evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas* and Kerri Dewett**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the Dominican Republic through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Clarence Frank and Phoebe* Harrison**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Honduras through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Brian* and Felicia* Henderson**, missionaries to American Peoples in Peru through regional office support and church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Earl* and Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the U.S. through medicine and church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for a team of four pastors as they travel to East Asia for leadership training, November 5 - 17.

Pray for: **Raymond* and Cynthia Hodgins**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples in the U.S. through sports evangelism and church/home outreach.

Pray for: **Jeffrey* and Liesa* Holeman**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Peru through community outreach, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Janet* Hol-loway**, IMB missionary ministering to European Peoples in Russia through student evangelism.

Further out: Pray for a team of nine from various churches as they travel to Southeast Asia for construction, November 12 - 21.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

AREA KEYBOARD FESTIVALS - 2013

AREA	LOCATION	FESTIVAL LEADER	PHONE C=Church O=Office
Thursday, January 24, 2013 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.			
Area 2	Calvary BC, 501 W. Main St. Tupelo, 38804	Doug Spires	(C) 662-842-3338
Area 3	FBC, 1700 Delaware Ave. McComb, 39648	Jane Wilkinson	(C) 601-684-2971
Area 3	FBC, 431 N. State St. Jackson, 39201	Wyndy South	(C) 601-292-3272 (O) 1-800-748-1651
Area 4	Poplar Springs Dr. BC 4032 Poplar Springs Dr. Meridian, 39305	Michael Gibson	(C) 601-485-5106
Area 5	Cartersville BC, 115 Cartersville Rd. Petal, 39465	Kris Smith	(C) 601-584-9457
Area 5	FBC, 902 Live Oak Ave. Pascagoula, 39567	Michaelle Harrison	(C) 228-762-2343
Area 5	FBC, 607 W. 5th St. Laurel, 39440	Marilyn Huff	(H) 601-763-8731
Friday, January 25, 2013 - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.			
Area 1	Longview Heights BC 4501 Goodman Rd. Olive Branch, 38654	Ada Cates	(C) 662-895-1900
Saturday, January 26, 2013 - 9:30 a.m. - noon			
Area 1	FBC, 450 Faith Dr. Grenada, 38901	Andy Cummings	(C) 662-226-3661
Area 1	North Greenwood BC 615 Grand Blvd. Greenwood, 38930	Patricia Etheridge	(C) 662-453-2801

Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir Weekend

April 6-7, 2013

First Baptist Church, Florence, Miss.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Mississippi Baptist Young Musicians Honor Choir is an auditioned choir for students in grades 4-6 who love to sing and desire to participate in a weekend of arts and worship.

120 children, grades 4-6, will be chosen from all over Mississippi to participate in an Honor Choir Concert April 6, 2013, at First Baptist Church, Florence.

Requirement: Audition.

COMING SOON: Audition requirements and an Audition Form may be located (printed) at www.mbc.org.

Registration fee: \$60 (NON REFUNDABLE) per accepted/registered choir member due no later than February 1, 2013.

Registration Fee includes: All meals (students only)
Snacks
T-Shirt
Concert Polo Shirt
Music

AUDITION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 10, 2012

More information: Contact Wyndy South, Church Music Department, Choir Coordinator, wsouth@mbcb.org; 1-800-748-1651, ext. 272 statewide, or locally at 601-292-3272.

HOUSE TOPS

Staff Changes



GALLMAN CHURCH, GALLMAN, has called Dave Qualls as pastor, shown here with his wife, Trish.



HARMONY CHURCH, BENTON-TIPPAH ASSOCIATION, recently called Jonathan Greer as youth director. He and his wife Hannah were welcomed with a pounding Oct. 7. Shown are Hanna Greer, Greer, Jennifer Martindale, and transitional pastor Lyndle Davis.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God
in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life:

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

CLASSIFIEDS

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHERWOOD, ARKANSAS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Resumes received through December 1. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, Children's Minister Committee, 701 Country Club Road, Sherwood, AR 72120, or email fbcresponse@swbell.net.

NEED TO DOWNSIZE? CLARK ESTATE SALES CAN HELP! Estate Sales Experts' Turn assets into cash in 14 days. Honest - Professional - References 601-317-2536. www.nickclarkauctions.com

Certified Appraiser Statewide Service: No upfront fees or expenses. We do 100% of the work.

FOR SALE: We Have 55 church choir robes, teal green, with yokes. In good cond. Different sizes. Call 662-473-6291. Frances. SEEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Oxford, MS.

GET AWAY AT BETSY'S LIL' CABINS call for a brochure 601-940-6841.

STUDENT MINISTER: Aliceville First Baptist Church in Aliceville, Alabama is searching for a Minister of Students. This is a full-time position. Please send resumes to AFBC, 323 Broad Street NW, Aliceville, AL 35442, ATTN: Charlie Wilson or to therev11@centurytel.net

GATLINBURG RENTALS: Cabin \$90/nite and Condo \$70/nite. Contact: 832 922 0401 or E-mail: pdw4760@att.net for information and booking.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

SEBREN'S SIDING www.sebrenhomeimprovement.com. Christian owned. Don & Rita Sebre. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (501) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

MS POSITIONS

WALTHAM BAPTIST CHURCH (WEBSTER CO) IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. If interested you can: Phone: 662-258-3259. Email: mramage@yahoo.com. Send resume to: Waltham Baptist Church, P.O. Box 366, Waltham, MS 39771

PINE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL "ASSOCIATE PASTOR/YOUTH MINISTER". Please send resume to Pine Grove Baptist Church, 124 Gather Johnson Rd., Magee, MS 39111.

UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, MOSELLE, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Please mail resumes to Unity Baptist Church, P. O. Box 156, Moselle, MS 39459, Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

TILLATOBA BAPTIST CHURCH, TILLATOBA, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Interested parties may mail resumes to: Tillatoba Baptist Church, Attn: Youth Minister Search Committee, P.O. Box 101, Tillatoba, Ms 39661.

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST PT FOR CHURCH-20 HRS WK. Bookkeeping exp., computer literate, Microsoft Office, Excel. Ability to prioritize & meet deadlines. Send resume to: 4475 Ponds Road, Meridian, MS 39301 or call Marvin Cooper 601-644-9194

CORNERSVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, A MEMBER OF THE UNION COUNTY ASSOCIATION, LOCATED ON THE UNION & MARSHALL COUNTY LINE, IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Resumes may be mailed to Cornersville Baptist Church, C/O L. A. Rhea, 1114 CR 1, Hickory Flat, MS 38633.

HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH IN MERIDIAN, MS, IS LOOKING FOR A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC/WORSHIP LEADER AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY. Will be responsible for Sunday morning and evening worship. If interested, please email a resume to hebronbaptist@bellsouth.net or mail to Music Search Committee, 4795 Virville Causeway Rd, Meridian, MS, 39301.

THE MUSIC SEARCH COMMITTEE OF STAR BAPTIST CHURCH IS NOW ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME WORSHIP LEADER. Please send them to starbaptistresumes@gmail.com

GUNTER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORENCE, MS, IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resumes to gunterroad@gmail.com. If mailing please send to 2240 Almar Rd. Florence, Ms. 39073 Attn: Mrs. Allen

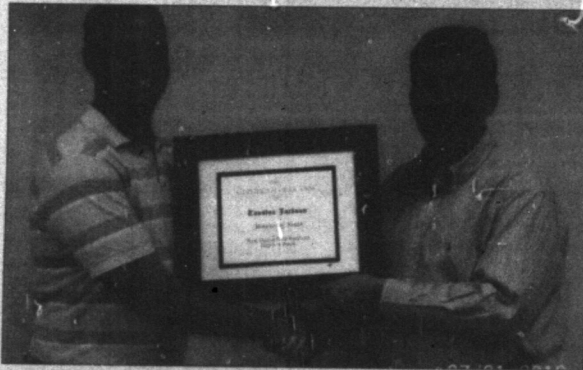
Just for the Record



MILITARY CHURCH, SUMRALL, held a baby dedication day Oct. 7. Shown are pastor Mike Aultman, and Josh & Sharelle Breakfield with Caroline Elizabeth.



COPIAH ASSOCIATION held a GA Journey Work Day Sept. 15, with 83 present and 8 churches represented.



NEW HENLEYFIELD CHURCH, PEARL RIVER COUNTY, ordained Tauston Jackson to the ministry July 1. Interim pastor Stan Davis presented him with a study Bible.



FIRST CHURCH, QUITMAN, took 25 people to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, where they saw 27 people come to Christ and fed approximately 1500 people in three days. Gene Neal, pastor.



FIRST CHURCH, LUMBERTON, recently erected a Ten Commandments display. Shown are pastor John R. Sapp, Ruth Ann Kohnke, Lynn & Phil Jones, and Kevin Langford.



FIRST CHURCH, CHICORA, held a GA recognition service August 26.



SALEM CHURCH, TYLERTOWN, held a deacon ordination Aug. 19. Shown are Mark Wicker, Dan Hawn, Joe S. Andrews, and Jerry McElveen.

www.lambsbooklist.com
JOIN "THE LIST"
 A list of Christian Businesses
 and Professionals
 Advertising Their Business

CD COMING
 DUE?

7.00%
 First Year
GUARANTEED
Includes First Year Bonus

Learn the Safe & Secure Way
 to Earn Stock Market Linked
 Returns Without Market Risk
 to Your Principal

L.D. O'Mire
 Financial Services
 1-800-844-3254

JUDGEMENT HOUSE FINALLY FORGIVEN

Tours for this 9 scene, walk-through drama begin every 15 minutes and last approximately 1 hour.
 Reservations for 6 or more are recommended but not required. Please call 601.845.1822 for
 reservations or more information.

Star Baptist Church, 301 Mangum Drive, Star, MS 39167

Sunday, October 28th begins @ 4pm Friday, November 2nd begins @ 6pm
 Wednesday, October 31st begins @ 6pm Saturday, November 3rd begins @ 4pm
 Thursday, November 1st begins @ 6pm Sunday, November 4th begins @ 4pm

\$1 donation per person is requested.

Living in Faith • 1 Peter 4:12-19

The phrase "it's all in your head" has a lot of truth to it. Christians have to win their spiritual battles in their minds before they can experience victory in their lives. In today's text Peter encourages Christians to face their trials with faith.

Three words emerge from the text that will help Christians on the path to victory in their trials.

1. REALIZE

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you (v. 12-13, NIV).

The first step on the path to victory in trials is to realize that trials don't mean that God is punishing you, that you are not saved, that God doesn't love you, that you are out of His will or that you have done anything wrong. Sincere Christians have sensitive hearts. Their first thought in the midst of a trial is "what have I done wrong?" "Why is God punishing me?"

The whole book of 1 Peter reveals that trials come to all Christians. It is not a matter of "if" we will have trials, but "when" we have trials how will we handle them? Peter encourages us to realize that trials are a normal part of the Christian life.

2. REJOICE

But rejoice that you partici-

pate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you (v. 13-14).

The second step to victory in trials, after realizing they are normal, is to learn to find joy in the midst of them. Christians can rejoice in trials, be-

cause far from showing them not truly saved, trials actually show the degree of one's godliness.

A worldly Christian will not suffer for Christ, because there is no evidence in his life that he is a Christian. But a godly Christian, who is led by the Spirit of God, has the image of Christ branded on his life. Just as Christ, the righteous one, suffered at the hands of the ungodly, His followers will experience some of the same.

The light of Christ, reflected in the sincere Christian's life, will expose darkness in others. They may hate you, even though you have done nothing to them. Rejoice in knowing this

does not mean you are out of God's will, but that you are actually walking in the footsteps of Jesus.

3. RESOLVE

If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler... For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what

will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?... So then, those who suffer ac-

cording to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good (v. 15-19, NIV).

The third step on the path to victory in trials is to resolve to be committed to Christ regardless of circumstances. Satan uses our trials as opportunities to get footholds in our lives that divert us from serving the Lord. We have already seen that Satan was behind all of the trials in Job's life in an effort to make him forsake serving God. But

Job resolved to be committed to God even on pain of death.

Today we have churches that are free to worship God in spirit and in truth, as well as the printed Word of God because of the blood of the martyrs. They, like Job, resolved on pain of death to be true to God and His Word at all cost. They would not give in to insults, difficulties, persecution or suffering of any kind.

In the first century, Christian resolve turned the Roman world upside down. Christianity became the official religion of Rome and the entire world. After the Dark Ages, Christian resolve resulted in the Bible being printed and mass produced in the language of the people. The Reformation was born out of that resolve. The future of the church depends on Christians with the same resolve.

1. Don't Bring Suffering On Yourself by Doing Wrong
2. Commit Yourself to Your Creator at All Cost
3. Be Faithful to God and He will be Faithful to You
4. Continue to Do Good Regardless of Circumstances

Bishop is a member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.



Explore the Bible
with David B. Bishop

From Failure to Action • John 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-19, Acts 4:13, 18-20

We've gone from Failure to Salvation, from Failure to Direction, from Failure to Correction, and finally now its time to execute. (Remember even good intentions count for something.) When we make what in our minds is a valiant attempt at being a Christian, but fail, we think this must be too hard. Peter with his grandiose plans, experienced a public failure, but was restored to a place of magnificence. The design is that it can happen with us as well.

When we break a leg bone, do we just cut it off and throw it away? We doctor it, rehab it, pet it, encourage it, and use it again. Oftentimes it's stronger than ever. Our Lord is always watching and waiting for our return after a failure(s), and He receives us with restoration in mind.

John 18:15-18, 25-27

After Jesus' arrest, Peter three times denied even knowing Him, much less being with him and being a follower. Peter's heart was right in that he actually did love Christ, he actually was intending to serve him, and yes, he had a cocksure attitude, but continue reading and you see the Lord restored him to be as rock solid as he thought he was - and more!

John 21:15-19

After the crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus said "Follow me" and Peter

knew he had been completely restored to his discipleship and to the ministry of his Lord. He had been subjected to the deepest level of repentance but a place of leadership was his reward. This open restoration was necessary for all hearers to know there was no lingering blot on his person and therefore no reason to despise the Gospel. Peter rises a new man, not disgraced, but with full authority and courage to face the weak, the evil, and the unsteady, the dull and sluggish, compelled by the love and saving grace of Christ.

Christ commands to "feed my lambs, take care of my sheep, govern them spiritually", and be freed from the disgraceful blot, so that you may be bold. Here is the lesson for all ministers of the Gospel to, without reservations, take positive action on the heels of failure, be empowered by the promises laid out for us all. Christ says "My sheep" hear my voice and follow me (they do not recognize a stranger's voice). I find this so consoling.

Christ equips Peter for the impending warfare. He must be prepared to die when it becomes necessary. Satan is forever on the prowl, and ministers are to see after the sheep but also cope with the wolves. V. 18-19 "...and lead you where you do not want to go" warning Peter of a violent death. To have a natural desire to leave our physical body is repugnant to nature. We see Jesus

himself asking to be delivered from death, but out of obedience to his Father He withstood. All believers

have a goal to glorify God in life and in death. The blessed resurrection of the Son of God brings a soothing message filled with comfort.

Acts 4:13, 18-20

Those who walk with Jesus become like Him. Jesus tutored 12 men for 3 years so they could become like Him, and would be able to imitate Him. In 1 Cor. 11:1 (NIV Study Bible) Paul says "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ", Christ being supreme.

Is it safe or detrimental for someone to imitate us? Is there evidence of restoration, of boldness in our speech, and can we declare "We can't do anything but speak what we saw and heard and learned from the Master?"

Our ethical standards, family relationships, attitude, choice of friends, personal character, etc. serve as our witness. We can't shrink from living for Him due to one or more failures. Peter and John drew a crowd with their boldness of speech and their healing powers. The hard core onlookers knew Peter and John had been with someone special because we unconsciously become like those with whom we associate.

They were stunning the elitists with their miracles, and out of exasperation, the rulers had to warn the apostles not to speak in Christ's name again. Peter made a statement that stands with Luther's declaration at the Diet of Worms. (Acts 4:19-20 sets up the New Testament church.) They were undaunted and knew they had to blazon what they had been fed. If not them, who would, who could? The spectators knew the miracles were from God and were unable to contradict or explain. Oh, Lord, how divine is Thy plan!

Gibson is a member of Monticello Church, Monticello.



Bible Studies for Life
with Evelyn Gibson



Just for the Record



FIRST CHURCH, MAGNOLIA, recently ordained Mark Ward as a deacon. Shown, front, are Addison and Wyatt Ward; back, Renee Ward, Brook Ward, Ward, and pastor Barry Ward.



Joe Vance, minister of music at **SPRINGFIELD CHURCH, MORTON**, was presented a certificate of appreciation and a monetary gift in appreciation of 14 years of service. Shown are interim pastor Keith Gordon and Vance.

The youth of **TISHOMINGO CHURCH, TISHOMINGO**, promoted the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering with a skit, Secret Agents. Shown are the participants.



The Mission Kids of **PARKER CHURCH, BRUCE**, expressed appreciation to pastor Paul Morris and his wife Melissa during pastor appreciation month. They made Morris a giant card and gave his wife roses. Shown, back row, are the Morrises; middle row, Faith Patton, John Patton, Noah Morgan, Alex Young, and Leah Young; front row, Addie Bennett, Freddie V., and Maggie Bennett.

In other Church News:

► **First Church, Runnelstown**, will host Karen Peck & New River in concert Nov. 2, 7 p.m. Love offering.

► **Bell Fountain Church, Ocean Springs**, is sponsoring a Fall Family Festival Oct. 27, 3 - 6 p.m., with games, food, and prizes; and a trunk treat Oct. 31, 5 p.m.

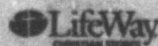
► **Enon Church, Panama Association**, recently expressed appreciation to pastor Keith Bolen and his wife, Lisa, for ministry to the church and community. The couple received a monetary gift.

► **Gumpond Church, Lumberton**, is hosting a fall harvest and men's chili cook-off Oct. 31, 6 p.m.

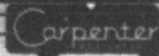
5-YEAR/60,000-MILE BODY & CHASSIS WARRANTY STANDARD WITH EVERY NEW BUS PURCHASE

Carpenter Bus Sales has gone the extra mile again in providing a unique 5-year/60,000-mile body & chassis warranty* with every new bus they sell.

An option like this would normally add \$3,000 to the price of a bus. With Carpenter Bus, it comes standard.



Call 866-750-5658
or visit us online at
CarpenterBus.com



*Warranty on the Limited Warranty of www.carpenterbus.com

GRIDIRON Men's Conference®

JUNE 14-15 2013
BIRMINGHAM, AL

Featuring

Tim Tebow

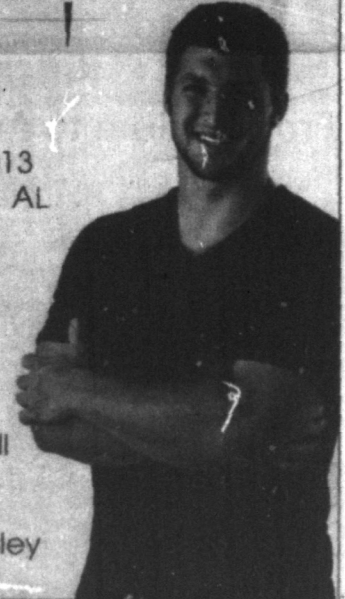
Dan Cathy

Fred Luter

Josh McDowell

Phil Waldrep

Charles Billingsley



CALL TODAY TO REGISTER!
OR VISIT US ONLINE FOR A FREE BROCHURE
WWW.GRIDIRONMEN.ORG
1.800.475.0814

